



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO
E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

August 10, 2006
PSA-082

Program Explores Foul Smells And Natural Fragrances

Why do some animals and plants secrete distinctive scents? Are the stinky smells and tangy aromas warnings to stay away or invitations for romance? Join local naturalist and scent expert "Jane Austin" as she sniffs around quiet trails and splashing streams for answers to these nose-wrinkling questions at Gross Encounters: Scents and Scentability. The odorous investigation takes place Friday, August 18, 2006, from 7:30-9 p.m., at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield.

This discovery program introduces visitors to a variety of scent-filled samples. Alluring animal scents, pleasant pheromones, misunderstood urine and other natural fragrances will be covered at the nature center. Then follow our naturalist as she leads the group in search of scents near the park's tranquil pond.

Find out how the foul smelling fungus, dog stinkhorn, uses its noxious scent to spread its spores. Discover which bird species use scent to find food. Learn how ground beetles repel enemies with scents. Participants will examine all sorts of smelly critters and plants.

Gross Encounters is a Fairfax County Park Authority program appropriate for ages six and up. Reservations are required. Cost is \$5 per visitor. Call Hidden Pond Nature Center for more information, (703) 451-9588.

Hidden Pond may be reached by taking Route 95 south from Beltway Exit 57A to west on Old Keene Mill Road. Cross Rolling Road and turn left at the next light onto Greeley Boulevard and follow three blocks to the park entrance at the end of the street.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.